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Medical Officer's Report

ON THE

HEALTH and SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Urban District of Lees

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER

1937

J. B. LORD & SONS, PRINTERS, LEES

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REPORT

ON THE

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OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LEES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1937

To the Chairman and Members

of the

Lees Urban District Council

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1937.

1.—General Statistics

Area (acres)	288
Population (1931)	4738
Population (1937 estimated)	4273
Number of inhabited houses end of 1937 according to Rate Books	1402
Rateable Value	£17,856
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£64

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births (legitimate) ...	50 ...	30 ...	20
,, ,, (illegitimate) ...	1 ...	0 ...	1
,, ,, Total	51 ...	30 ...	21
Still Births	2 ...	0 ...	2
Deaths	70 ...	29 ...	41

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....11·9

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still birth) Births... 37

Crude Death Rate .....*16·3 per 1,000

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth..... { Sepsis ..... 0; Other causes 1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births 78

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 80

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..... nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)..... 12

,, Measles (all ages) 0

,, Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years) 0

Population 4,273	Per 1000 of estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1.000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 total Live & Still Births	
Mean of 5 years, 1932-1936	11·4	14·1	0·44	1·98	11·00	10·38	42
Year—							
1936	10·7	15·1	0·45	2·52	nil	nil	21
1937	11·9	*16·3	0·46	2·80	19·60	18·86	78
Increase or decrease in 1937 on—							
5 years average, 1932-1936	+0·5	+2·2	+0·02	+0·82	+8·60	+8·48	+36
Previous year	+1·2	+1·2	+0·01	+0·28	+19·60	+18·86	+57

2.—Causes of Death

	Male	Female
All causes	29	41
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
2 Measles	0	0
3 Scarlet Fever	0	0
4 Whooping Cough	0	0
5 Diphtheria	1	0
6 Influenza	0	1
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	0
10 Other Tuberculous diseases	0	0
11 Syphilis	0	0
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	0	0
13 Cancer, malignant disease	6	6
14 Diabetes	0	1
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	1	6
16 Heart Disease	5	14
17 Aneurysm	0	0
18 Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1
19 Bronchitis	2	0
20 Pneumonia, all forms	2	0
21 Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0
22 Peptic Ulcer	0	0
23 Diarrhœa, (under 2 years)	0	0
24 Appendicitis	0	0
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	0	2
26 Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	0	0
27 Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	1
29 Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
30 Other Puerperal Causes	0	1
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	0	4
32 Senility	0	0
33 Suicide	1	0
34 Other Violence	2	1
35 Other defined diseases	2	2
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	0	0

3—Notifiable Diseases.

Number of cases of infectious disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1937 :—

Disease.	Cases Notified.													Total Deaths.	Hospital.	
	Total cases at all ages	Years.													Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over			
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	5	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	2	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	15	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	0

Tuberculosis

(1)—The notification of Tuberculosis is efficient in the district.

New Cases and Mortality during 1936.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...								
1—5 ...								
5—10 ...								
10—15 ...		1						
15—20 ...			1					
20—25 ...								
25—35 ...	1							
35—45 ...								
45—55 ...	1				1			
55—65 ...		1						
65 & upward	1				1			
Totals...	3	2	1	0	2	0	0	0
	5		1		2		0	

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

CASES	Treated		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Number Notified	At Home	In Hospital				
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4.—Causes of Sickness.

No epidemic during the year.

School Closure

None of the Schools in the District have been closed at any time during the year on account of Scarlet Fever Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, Influenza or any other diseases.

Special Reports

No Special Reports have been made under Article 17 (7) Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulation, 1935.

5.—Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available in the District

Professional Nursing in the home.

(a) General Nursing :

The Lees Sick Nursing Association which is supported by voluntary contributions, employs one Nurse, who attends non-infectious cases among the sick poor. No nursing is provided by the Local Authority.

(b) Infectious Diseases :

No provision for nursing is made.

Midwives

There is now a resident County Midwife in the District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

A School for Mothers and Ante-natal Clinic has now been provided in this District by the County Authorities.

Hospital Accomodation

For Small-Pox. An arrangement has been completed with Chaddderton. Payment per case and a retaining fee of £25 per annum.

For other Infectious Diseases, by arrangement with Oldham. Payment per case per week.

There is no Hospital Accomodation in the District for *(a)* Maternity cases; *(b)* Children; *(c)* Tuberculosis; and no institutional provision for un-married mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities

are provided by arrangement with Oldham for (*a*) Infectious Cases and (*b*) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

6.—Laboratory Work

Fourteen Bacterlogical Examinations have been carried out in addition to those by the County Tuberculosis Officers.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is kept at the Council Offices and Police Station, Lees, and is supplied gratuitiously to medical men on request.

Acts in force in the District

"The Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1898."

"Part iii of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890." and "Parts ii, iii, and iv, of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907," subject to certain conditions and Adoptions referred to in an Order of the Local Government Board (No. 57,207) dated 28th August, 1911.

7.—Sanitary Administration

Water Supply

There is an efficient supply of water of good quality from the Oldham Corporation Waterworks.

Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse

This is carried out satisfactorily by the Sanitary Authority. Sewerage of the greater part of the District is conveyed to the sewers of the Oldham Corporation, and is treated at their Outfall works. That of the remainder is treated at our own Sewage works, by the method of precipitation, continuous filters, percolating filters and humous tanks.

Excrement is disposed of principally on the water carriage system, only a few pail closets now remaining. The conversion of the pail closets to the fresh water carriage system has been carried out under an Unemployment Grants' Scheme.

Refuse is disposed of in Dustbins and Ashpits. The dustbins are emptied weekly and the ashpits at intervals as required, and the contents removed to the Council's tip.

The following table indicates the number of the various sanitary conveniences in the District at the close of each of the last five years.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Number of Privy Middens	—	—	—	—	—
,, Pail Closets	26	26	26	26	26
,, Fresh Water Closets	1298	1381	1403	1424	1465
,, Waste Water Closets	85	83	83	83	83
,, Dry Ashpits	61	5	5	5	5
,, Movable Ashbins	984	1072	1094	1108	1149

Nuisance Inspection

Number of Notices	Informal	97
	Statutory	0
Number of Notices complied with		81
Number of Legal Proceedings		0
Number of Premises visited		1002

Sale of Food and Drugs Act

These are administered by the Police.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(*a*) Milk Supply—There are only two farms and two cow-sheds within the District and one dairy. These are regularly inspected and are in a very satisfactory condition. The bulk of the milk supply is derived from farms of surrounding districts. There are 38 Retail Purveyors of Milk on the Register.

(*b*) Meat Supply—There are three slaughter-houses in the District,—one registered and two licensed. These and the Meat and other food shops are regularly visited. No Public Abattoir has been provided. All animals are inspected at time of slaughter or immediately after.

Bakehouses

There are eleven bakehouses in the District all of which are inspected regularly. They are in a satisfactory condition.

Factories and Workshops

Factories—The inspection of factories is confined to :—

1. The Mill Reservoirs.
2. Smoke observations of the amount of black smoke emitted from the chimneys.
3. The provision of efficient fire escapes, when complained of, or reported by the Factory Inspectors.
4. The removal of nuisances complained of or reported by the Factory Inspectors.

Workshops—With regard to the Workshops, these are regularly visited.

8.—Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health (part time):

James Currie, M.A., M.B., C.M.

Sanitary Inspector (part time):

Harold Boardman, M.S.I.A.

9.—Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(*a*) Total [including numbers given separately under (*b*)] ... 41

(*i*) By the Local Authority 0

(*ii*) By other Local Authorities 0

(*iii*) By other bodies or persons 41

(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Act:

(*i*) By the Local Authority (included under (*a*) (*i*) above) 0

(*ii*) By other bodies or persons (included under (*a*) (*iii*) above)..... 0

Uufit Dwelling-houses

1—Inspection

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 670

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 742

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925..... 0

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all reasonably fit for human habitation 43

2—Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.

(1) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 43

3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. *Proceedings under Sections 17, 18, and 23, of the Housing Act, 1930:*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(*a*) By owners 0

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts:*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

(*a*) By owners 6

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, of the Housing Act, 1936:*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

D. *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4—Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding.

(1) (*a*) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year 43
(*b*) Number of families dwelling therein 23
(*c*) Number of persons dwelling therein 161

(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

(3) (*a*) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 25
(*b*) Number of persons concerned in such cases 116

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES CURRIE,
M.A., M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health,
Lees.